

# *The man who built the Curtis Homestead :*

## CAPTAIN LEVI BENNETT

In 1819, Captain Levi Bennett built the John Griswold Homestead in Clinton Township, Wayne County, PA, for John Griswold and Elizabeth Crittenden. This homestead ultimately became the property of Francis Griswold (one of the sons of John Griswold and Elizabeth Crittenden) and his wife, Jane Loomis, who established therein the Cold Water Tavern. On May 1, 1871, the 1819 John Griswold Homestead, subsequently the Cold Water Tavern, became the property of Henry Banning Curtis and Louisa Griswold, and became known as the Curtis Homestead.

Levi Bennett, who served as a captain in the Civil War, was a member of G.A.R. Post No. 187. His name is listed on the monument in City Hall Park in Carbondale, PA, that was "ERECTED 1885, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SERG. WM. H. DAVIES POST, NO. 187, G.A.R. AND BY THE CITIZENS OF CARBONDALE, PA. TO THE MEMORY OF ALL ITS CITIZENS WHO BECAME THE BRAVE DEFENDERS OF THE UNION DURING ITS PERIL OF 1861-1865."

From the biographical sketch of Rufus Griswold that is reprinted in this issue of NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, we learn that Captain Levi Bennett's wife, Clarissa Miles, and Rufus Griswold's wife, Nancy Miles, were sisters:

Reared on the home farm, Rufus Griswold received his education in the public schools of the locality, and during early life he followed lumbering and farming. In 1858 he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Miles, of Bethany, Wayne county, a daughter of James and Almeda (Brink) Miles, now [1900] deceased. Her father was born in Orange county, N.Y., and when a young man came to Wayne county, where he was married and afterward located at Cherry Ridge, carrying on the stone mason's trade there until his death. His children were: Clarissa, now the wife of Levi Bennett; Mary J., wife of Rev. James Miner, of Watertown, N.Y.; Lucius; Charles N., who drowned at sea; Nancy, wife of our subject; Isaac and William H., who were both drowned in Honesdale in 1872; and Alice, wife of William Bates, of Carbondale...